

The Internet
is a big distraction.
— Ray Bradbury

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Artificial Intelligence automated bus/bike lane enforcement coming to downtown

Fines to start Nov. 14

BY PETER VON BUOL

It's just like the City of Chicago to take a new technology designed to help mankind and initially seek out a way it could be used to write parking tickets.

The city of Chicago has contracted with Hayden AI, a San Francisco-based artificial intelligence [AI] technology company, to begin automatically ticketing vehicles flagged by artificial intelligence and found to be standing or parked in bicycle and bus lanes.

And these are not your sensible \$35 parking fines, parking in a privileged lane could cost drivers \$250.

Funding for this program has been provided through the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act [IIJA] of 2021. Through that federal legislation, Illinois was the recipient of nearly \$16 billion in road, bridge, and transit-focused funding, which included funding for the CTA's automated bus lane enforcement program.

According to officials at the CTA, use of the AI technology will contribute to an improvement in safety for all and will also help with parking compliance. It will also help with reliability and efficiency. Each system includes an on-board processor, along with two windshield-mounted cameras that allow the AI to identify and record data capturing violations in bus lanes, bike lanes and bus stops.

Now underway, violations captured by cameras on CTA buses will result in a mailed warning. After the 30-day warning period, beginning Nov. 14, drivers will receive a fine for any subsequent violations.

The test area for the CTA's automated bus lane enforcement program is a downtown zone bounded by North Ave. to the

north, Ashland Ave. to the west, Roosevelt Rd. to the south, and Lake Michigan to the east.

The two-year pilot program, established by Chicago City Council ordinance, authorizes the City to ticket registered vehicle owners by mail for specific parking and standing violations downtown. The pilot is currently set to expire in Dec. 2026.

Last year, New York City's Metropolitan Transit Authority began using Hayden AI for automated bus lane enforcement but it was not without problems. Last November, AI cameras on two bus routes mistakenly ticketed about 3,800 vehicles for blocking bus lanes.

Founded in 2019, the privately-held Hayden AI was formed to take advantage of municipalities participating in the United Nations Smart Cities initiative.

"More than 870 of the faulty infractions were for cars, trucks and SUVs that were parked in perfectly legal spots," according to the NBC News story.

According to an official at the CTA, all violations flagged by AI technology will be actively reviewed by a human operator, which will eliminate a similar scenario occurring in Chicago.

Founded in 2019, the privately-held Hayden AI was formed to take advantage of municipalities participating in the United Nations Smart Cities initiative. Hayden AI's investors include Paul Hewson (better known as Bono, the lead singer of the Irish rock band U2) and Jeffrey Skoll, a Canadian entrepreneur who was the first president of eBay. Their financial support was provided to Hayden AI through their The Rise Fund investment vehicle.

After first warning, fines include \$250 for obstructing privileged bicycle lane

BY BOB ZULEY

The prioritization of bicycles continues unabated in Chicago as the city announced Oct. 15 that it will equip six CTA buses with automated license plate reader cameras to automatically ticket drivers illegally parked in bicycle and bus lanes in a large area of central Chicago.

The pilot area is bounded by North Ave. [1600 N.], Roosevelt Rd. [1200 S.], Ashland Ave. [1600 W.], and Lake Michigan.

Ticket fines issued through the program include: \$250 fines for bicycle lane obstructions; \$140 fines for personal vehicles parked in commercial loading zones; \$90 fines for parking in a bus lane; and \$50 fines for parking at expired meters outside the central business district.

A 30-day warning period began Oct. 15, meaning all drivers hit with a violation will receive a warning notice until Nov. 14. Subsequent violators will be fined. Drivers will receive a warning for

TICKETING see p. 12

The Rise Fund's co-founders also include the now-infamous Bill McGlashan, a private equity manager who participated in a massive college admissions fraud scheme. McGlashan pleaded guilty in Feb. 2021, after he had been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Operation Varsity Blues. No longer associated with The Rise Fund, McGlashan was sentenced to three months in prison and assessed a fine of \$250,000.

Hewson and Skoll have both

ENFORCEMENT see p. 12

Exodus of small businesses expected after City Council approves massive Broadway upzoning

Zoning Committee ignored notification deficiencies

BY BOB ZULEY

Last Thursday, an online newsletter from Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [48th] announced the approval of a series of 22 ordinances passed by the Chicago City Council that will upzone the building zoning code along the Broadway corridor and adjoining cross streets in three wards.

The measure was among proforma approvals in a meeting largely focused on Mayor Brandon Johnson's 2026 budget introduction and address.

The Broadway Upzoning Framework was conceived in a secretive, hurried 'back-room' process by the Johnson administration to redevelop Uptown and Edgewater rather than tackle vast stretches of blighted communities elsewhere in the city.

It was publicly announced as a done-deal in two separate charette meetings in the Fall 2024 at Furama Restaurant, 4936 N. Broadway. By those meetings, the planning scheme was already completed, behind the scenes, with no public input.

The work was conducted by the City's Dept. of Planning and Development [DPD] with the active collaboration of Aldermen Angela Clay [46th], Matt Martin [47th], and Manaa-Hoppenworth.

While the larger upzoning on Broadway runs from Devon (6400 N.) south to Montrose Ave. (4400 N.), most of the project is centered on the Broadway corridor in Edgewater from Devon to Winona St. (5150 N.).

Neither the upzoning framework nor Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth addressed the pressing need for new parking in the Edgewater community, particularly east of Broadway. The upzoning effort likely will make the parking situation much more dire. For those who own off-street parking spots

to rent, those investments just became vastly more valuable.

The upzoning will allow for the canyonization of Broadway with greater height in new developments of 80 feet along on both sides of Broadway, with greater density which will equate with smaller residential units.

The economic effect of the new buildings will result in higher commercial and residential rental rates, forcing many current residents and occupants to relocate elsewhere.

The Edgewater upzoning measure, enacted by Manaa-Hoppenworth overturns decades of deliberate, resident-inclusive processes instituted by former-Aldermen Mary Ann Smith and Harry Osterman.

The Upzoning will not in itself cause local businesses to close, or rents to rise. With local resident input all but eliminated, it will instead allow for a City Hall-engineered, developer-driven process that incentivize wealthy investors and developers to make their property purchase plays. Local property owners were gifted a winning lottery ticket with the upzoning. They may now decide to sell out for much more money than they could have with the prior zoning. The underlying real estate value - with its new higher density - may pencil out as more lucrative than collecting rent from their current tenants in their existing spaces.

One target repeatedly cited by the proponents of the upzoning is the elimination of single-story strip malls and properties along Broadway that provide necessary services to the community. In a town presently suffering with extensive commercial vacancies, many of the aldermen who voted to approve the measure would

BROADWAY see p. 12

Man killed in Lake View domestic shooting, suspect in custody

BY CWBCHICAGO

A 53-year-old man was shot and killed during a domestic dispute inside a Lake View apartment Oct. 17, marking the latest in a small but growing number of shootings in the normally quiet neighborhood, Chicago police said.

Officers responded to a 911 call reporting shots fired around 10:37 p.m. in the 2800 block of N. Leavitt St., police said. When they arrived, officers found the man suffering from multiple gunshot wounds.

According to preliminary information provided by CPD, the man was involved in a domestic altercation that escalated when another male inside the home pulled out a gun and opened fire. A neighbor called 911 after hearing gunshots, and a witness said that their brother shot their mother's boyfriend, according to a report.

The suspected shooter remained at the scene and was taken into custody. Police recovered two firearms and found shell casings inside the apartment. Charges were pending on Saturday.

The shooting took place in the N. Center/Roscoe Village community area, where gun violence remains rare compared with most parts of the city. Since 2020, only 22 people have been shot in the neighborhood, according to city data. Yet the 2800 block of N. Leavitt has now been the site of four of those shootings, due perhaps to its location near Lathrop Homes. This year alone, five people have been shot in this area, well above recent years when one person was shot in 2023 and two were wounded in 2024.

City proposes funding for North Center senior housing building rehab

The Chicago City Council on Oct. 16 introduced an ordinance to support the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Martha Washington Apartments, 2324 W. Irving Park Rd., in North Center. If passed, the ordinance would provide up to \$13 million in Multi-Family Housing Bonds and up to \$3 million in Multi-Family Loan to support the work.

The building provides 103 units of senior housing with rents affordable from 30 to 80% of the

Area Median Income. The renovation would include flooring and lighting upgrades to the common areas as well as unit interior work that consists of full cabinet and counter-top replacement in the kitchens and bathroom vanity and fixture replacement.

Exterior work would include a new membrane roofing over the existing, new roof fall protection systems, and exterior lighting upgrades and concrete and asphalt resurfacing.

How delicate the flower



By Thomas J. O’Gorman

Here at my Chicago farmhouse there is an extraordinary overflow of seasonal botanicals popping out of the soil. Rising up in urns and cascading over fences, with ivy growing furiously over the proportions of a clapboard structure like it was Stonehenge.

The lot between the garage and the house, is a classic English garden over-embellished with glorious overgrowth. I make no excuses for the historically hard to keep up with wear and tear all over the premises. The over abundance of things growing is a grand way to cover up and disguise the need for repairs.

Two grand 18th century neoclassical urns are perched on the low-rise entry way to the house. Each urn holds a large out of control fern. Quite fast-growing through the summer months as if this were Ibiza. But the perfect size with easy proportions by July. Though a run-away shrubbery by August and September.

You can’t really trim them without declaring yourself a bourgeois failure in the gardening department. So they are left to their own devices and free to be wild. Or so

they think.

That was until I receive a posted complaint from the postman.

The urns with the ferns are on either side of the entryway to the house itself, to the front door with brass miniature whale that does a fine job as a door knocker. Below that is a brass letter slot for Ben Franklin’s version of the Royal Mail.

I will admit the ferns grew so quickly, yet looked so aesthetically refined, no right-thinking person would snip them back to earth.

And yes, by August some of the branches of the ferns were touching each other like the plant life of Eden.

The complaint, written on an official U.S. Post Office form said that the ferns appeared growing out of control and prevented the mailman from “reaching” the mail slot. It stated that they did not want to have to walk between the ferns for fear the branches would touch their skin.

I’m not making this up.

So they said it was not possible to reach the mail slot to deliver the mail.

Of course all I could think of was the phrase -“Neither snow nor rain nor sleet nor hail shall keep the postmen from their appointed rounds.” Nothing mentioned about ferns.

Imagine the tropical-looking ferns, robust and elegant, wildly interfering with “the appointed rounds” here in 21st century America. What could prompt such suspicion and fear in a person who no longer even has to carry the mail in a shoulder bag?



Two grand 18th century neoclassical urns filled with fast growing ferns are perched on the front entryway to this writer’s home, which has drawn the ire of the U.S. Postal Service.

Every mailman I see uses a pushcart.

I also thought about all the misdirected mail that winds up in my mail slot which I wind up delivering to my assorted neighbors.

I had a difficult time seeing the ferns as a preventative to delivery. Of course, I then realized that this issue was the cause of the mail no longer actually being put through the mail slot, instead being tossed over the ferns so that all mail was dropped on the cement block of the entrance... Saving the postman the dreaded danger of encounter with a fern.

How delicate these modern mailmen must be.

I no longer saw a reason to butcher the ferns after postal delivery was in some fashion restored, but I did rotate the urns to create a separation passage between the branches.

But the big fact still remained. Are those poetic words of reason concerning “the appointed rounds” somehow too archaic for our modern age?

I do, ironically, actually see parallels with the way many Chicagoans live their cockamamie lives. That combo of dark trivia, foul-mouthed vocabulary, political threats, property tax cheating, chest-thumping, church attending and neighborhood combative bravado stands as if it were all a party game.

Most emphatically with the ill-conceived way Chicagoans drive, I’m always counting the number of folk who are clueless at a four-way stop. Or who gleefully make u-turns. Does anyone actually know the “rules of the road”?

I’m chagrined when riding in a car, up close to the bike lanes, watching all the cyclists who never stop for a red light or stop sign, but expect the urban landscape to flawlessly unfold before them.

And, of late, I’m confounded by the lack of cohesion in people’s minds in the face of the flagrant usurpations of the U.S. Constitution currently in such vogue. Those combos enhance the off-kilter of everyday Chicago life, bad for mailmen and the growers of plants.

Next year we’ll look at putting cactus in those urns.

MORE TICKETS: Beware neighbors, ticket-issuing cameras will soon be coming to CTA buses, to help fill City Hall coffers with easy money picked from your purses and pockets. Automated camera and sensor systems have long been in use for speeding and ticketing those who run red lights. We predict the next up to be deputized for issuing tickets will be Uber and Lyft drivers, and perhaps even Divvy bikers. What’s more, photos generated by automated enforcement cameras like these are supposed to be approved only after being verified by a human. But how long before that is quietly changed to allow AI to do the verifications? Keep your eyes on this one folks. How long before people alter their license plates each morning before heading out onto our roads?

QUID SCRIPSI: So pleased my friend and shirttail cousin, the late Irish journalist and newspaper owner, **Ronnie O’Gorman**, was honored in his beloved Galway, Chicago’s Sister City, for his championing freedom of the press and truth in the telling of it. A grand man. So pleased my Galway friends **Sadhbh O’Gorman** and **James Harrold** were there.

This newspaper is fighting a free speech fight too, against Sdler Property Management, who is using the courts to try and drain our resources after our recent coverage of the hinky goings-on at 175 E. Delaware Pl.



Kenya Merritt

CULTURAL AFFAIRS: **Clinee Hedsbeth**, Chicago’s Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, has resigned despite all the posturing and propaganda floating around about their “team.”

A close friend and ally of Mayor **Brandon Johnson**, he was unable to protect her from growing, well-earned, substantive criticism over the past year and a half. The Mayor has nominated **Kenya Merritt** as replacement.

STAGE: Playwright **Sandra Delgado** stars as Clara in Time-Line Theatre’s world premiere of *Hundreds and Hundreds of Stars*, a Chicago-set story of family, immigration, and American identity,

written by Delgado and directed by **Kimberly Senior**. Performances run through Nov. 9, hosted by Lookingglass Theatre Co. in the historic Water Tower Water Works on E. Pearson St., while TimeLine continues construction of its new home in Uptown. Go see it.

PAPAL TOUR: **Brigid Cashman**, **Liz Lombardo Stark** and **Father Jack Wall** recently led a tour to **Pope Leo XIV’s** boyhood home in Dolton, with the Papal Nuncio to the U.S., **Cardinal Christophe Pierre**, and 15 Catholic Bishops, following a meeting of the Catholic Church Extension Society of which **Fr. Wall** is the Director.

FOR KIDS: Kids Above All’s 2025 Annual Celebration Dinner is Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago.

HUNTING HERO: The Illinois Conservation Foundation has announced nine new inductees into the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame, recognizing their outstanding contributions to conservation, education, and outdoor recreation. Included in the class of 2025 is **Larry Lucas**. Lucas, the CEO of Conor Communications, has advanced Illinois conservation policy by championing youth hunting legislation and establishing a fourth waterfowl hunting zone, expanding access and opportunity statewide. Lucas and his fellow inductees will formally be inducted during the Illinois Conservation Foundation Gala, March 19, 2026.

FOREVER PEACE: **Lydia de Chanov** was devoted to Chicago life. She died in early October in Los Angeles where she had lived her last years, close to her beloved boys. A former teacher, there was little that she was not attracted to from real estate to art galleries. From Stuart Brent Books to the

DELICATE see p. 8

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Mayor drops \$16.6B budget on City Council, record \$1B to be looted from TIF

Bulging budget declared "dead on arrival" by opposition

BY BOB ZULEY

Mayor Brandon Johnson introduced his \$16.6 billion 2026 budget to the City Council on Oct. 16 promising to "challenge the ultrarich." This includes \$586.6 million in new tax and fee revenues and a record \$1 billion in surplus Tax Increment Financing [TIF] taken from the pot to bail out the city and Chicago Public Schools.

The Mayor claims a new property tax hike is anticipated, although TIF funds are in fact property tax dollars, so that is not entirely accurate. TIF funds are taken from other property tax-collecting government entities, and those entities must then replace those lost dollars with new taxes of their own. So the now annual confiscating of 'surplus' TIF funds may be seen as a form of institutionalized money laundering, whereby the city is moving property tax increases through other taxing bodies.

The Mayor faced a 2024 budget gap of about \$85 million. That has now ballooned to over \$1.15 billion with the potential to increase even more over the next couple of years. Chicago's budget for 2020 was \$11.65 billion, so it has jumped about \$4 billion - or 41.6% - in five years, sitting now at over \$16.6 billion.

Johnson's tax-heavy budget aims to erase a \$1.15 billion shortfall that will hit businesses hard and likely cause others to join Walgreens, Caterpillar, Citadel, Tyson, PEAK6 Investments, TTX, United Airlines and Boeing in abandoning Chicago.

Ald. Matt O'Shea [19th], a member of Johnson's City Council leadership team, declared the mayor's budget "dead on arrival," predicting that business, labor, and their Council allies would unite in opposition. Ald. Timmy Knudsen [43rd] said he was "a hard 'No' vote."

Johnson's progressive allies lauded the proposed budget. Ald. Maria Hadden [49th], said the Progressive Caucus has been "pushing for progressive revenue for some time."

Still the Progressive Caucus is not sizable enough to get him a majority necessary, and actually produced some of the "No" votes in the 2024 budget cycle.

In his address to the Council, Johnson said Chicago is the 10th-wealthiest city in the world, with 127,000 millionaires and 24 billionaires - while 1-in-4 Chicagoans under the age of 18 are mired in poverty.

"Our budget proposal asks large corporations and the ultrawealthy to chip in more so that working families are not burdened with higher taxes or grocery taxes or garbage fees," Johnson said. "This intense and growing wealth inequity is not sustainable for our city."

Johnson's proposal is a 3% decrease from the current 2025 spending plan.

The budget also includes more borrowing, even through borrowing by the Johnson Administra-

tion has already reached epic proportions, including a \$100 million line of credit at a high interest rate of what is believed to be 9%.

A head tax of \$3 and later \$4 was instituted by Mayor Richard J. Daley nearly 40 years ago and applied to companies with more than 50 employees. It was phased out by then-Mayor Rahm Emanuel in 2014 to more closely align with his pro-business agenda.

The new head tax, with the mayor's Orwellian rebranding as a "community safety surcharge," would be \$21 per month and apply to companies with more than 100 workers - about 3% of city companies.

The new tax would raise \$100 million in annual revenue, though business leaders say it could stifle hiring, discourage corporate expansion, pit local businesses against each other, and trigger a business exodus from the city.

"We're talking about 3% of companies who will be asked to put more skin in the game; 97% of businesses won't be impacted by this," Johnson said of his tax plan.

Johnson also hopes to generate \$333 million annually by raising the tax on cloud computing from 11% to 14%. That's a 27% tax increase on the heels of last year's 22% increase in that tax.

Jack Lavin, president of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, said the proposed 14% cloud computing tax would be the highest in the nation and a "job-crushing sibling to the head tax."

"Business and labor want to see cranes in the air. We want to see people employed," Lavin said. "These taxes are a penalty for hiring people. These are quick fixes that are going to kill jobs."

In all, the slew of new or expanded "revenue enhancements" including the head tax would fill only \$437.5 million of the 2026 budget gap.

More shockingly is that Johnson plans to siphon off more than \$1 billion of TIF money, the mayoral slush fund. That's nearly double last year's record \$570

million. Of that, the city would retain \$232.6 million while CPS would receive \$522 million.

In a normal setting, the massive amounts now being siphoned off from TIF funds each year should make taxpayers wonder why there is so much excess cash being created by the city's 126 TIF districts in the first place?

the district. TIF funds were never intended to bail out city budgets, or to fund government salaries and pensions.

And any Alderman who votes to allow this may also be violating both the letter and spirit of the state law as well.

There is also a tax generator proposed in this plan called the

rate fund to sustain its non-police response team to mental health crises, also known as the Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement Program that had been funded by American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

The Mayor also signed off on a deal with the Fire Dept. union recently, but didn't include the total amounts for retroactive pay and step increases. Reportedly, the old steps were included in this budget, so Aldermen expect to get updated information on the actual increases.

The Johnson Administration is also turning back to borrowing money with general obligation bonds to pay for legal settlements after years of prior administrations moving away from that financial morass.

This budget also cuts the advanced pension payment plan put in place by former Mayor Lori Lightfoot that was designed to reduce Chicago taxpayer's future pension burdens.

Illinois law requires TIF funds to be spent within the boundaries of the specific TIF district from which they are generated. By ignoring that law, and removing those tax dollars and using them outside a TIF district, the Mayor is violating both the letter and the spirit of TIF law.

Illinois law requires TIF funds to be spent within the boundaries of the specific TIF district from which they are generated. By ignoring that law, and removing those tax dollars and using them outside a TIF district, the Mayor is violating both the letter and the spirit of TIF law.

The purpose of these funds is to finance improvements within a designated area to encourage economic development, with expenditures limited to costs associated with the development or re-development of properties within

SMART fund that taxes social media. Taxation of individuals' social media use may be an unconstitutional violation of American's First Amendment free speech rights. This attempt at taxing speech likely would be challenged in federal court.

The budget of the city's most expansive department, the Chicago Police Dept., would go up by \$37.9 million to about \$2.11 billion largely due to salary bumps from the police union contract.

The city would also carve out additional money from the corpo-

Commercial burglaries on North Side

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police are warning local citizens of recent related commercial burglaries in the Lake View East, Lake View, Lincoln Square, Andersonville and Roscoe Village neighborhoods.

The offenders are described as one to two Black males wearing all dark color: green and black hoodies and dark pants. Individuals are wearing black masks and gloves.

In each incident below, an unidentified offender forcibly

entered into a business after breaking a front glass window/door. Once inside, the offender takes possession of currency contained inside business cash registers.

Incidents include one on the 3700 block of N. Broadway on Oct. 15, at 3:26 a.m.; 3400 block of N. Southport Ave., on Oct. 15, at 6:15 a.m.; 1900 block of W. Foster Ave., on Oct. 15, at 6:41 a.m.; 5200 block of N. Clark St., on Oct. 15, at 6:43 a.m., and one on the 1900 block of W. Addison St., on Oct. 15, at 6:58 a.m.

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CHA battles HUD over federal cash

DEI ban enforcement puts 95% of CHA budget at risk

The race and gender-based actions created by the Diversity Equity and Inclusion [DEI] culture have put the vast majority of the Chicago Housing Authority's [CHA] budget at risk.

Presently at stake is \$185 million in funding, which would make up about 13% of the CHA's 2025-26 budget. But approximately 95% to 98% of the CHA budget comes directly from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development [HUD].

The push for DEI has birthed a new lawsuit from the CHA filed against the HUD. In the court filing, the CHA now claims HUD is wrongfully attempting to withhold grant funding to the CHA if they do not align with some of the federal government's priorities on eliminating racial and gender preferences.

The lawsuit applies to a \$185 million grant program known as Operating Subsidy Grants that the CHA hopes to receive. The deadline to apply was Oct. 21 and the CHA thinks it was not given clear instruction on the new guidelines.

Federal laws prohibit racial and gender discrimination in contracting, with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 setting a baseline for many government and private employers, while Executive Order 11246 historically applied specific non-discrimination requirements and affirmative action obligations to federal contractors and subcontractors.

President Trump's current executive order regarding racial and gender discrimination in con-

tracting is Executive Order 14173, signed on Jan. 21. This new order significantly changes the landscape from previous regulations. Federal contractors are no longer required to create or implement race- or gender-based affirmative action programs.

In a press release issued on Oct. 17, the CHA said "HUD is requiring Public Housing Authorities to certify that federal funds will not be used to fund or promote 'diversity, equity and inclusion mandates, policies or programs,' gender ideology; elective abortions; and immigration-related policies. The HUD certifications cite several recent Executive Orders but provide no additional information or clarification on these requirements beyond the language in the application."

The CHA is now in a real fix as the vast majority of its funding comes from HUD. The new DEI regulations could put at risk up to \$1 billion in CHA federal funding. The CHA is seeking a temporary restraining order.

The lawsuit comes at a time of chaos at the CHA. Former 27th Ward Ald. Walter Burnett, Mayor Brandon Johnson's conflicted pick to lead the CHA, has been sidelined from assuming its CEO position, at least temporarily, over his potential conflicts of interest tied to his three decades as a Chicago City Council member and ownership of three properties rented by CHA voucher holders.

The CHA also suffers from heightened scrutiny now due to a revelations that board member Debra Parker has family members and a boyfriend with businesses ties to CHA that earned them nearly \$22 million in contracts with the agency in recent years.



Chicago Joe's in the North Center neighborhood once was a 16-inch softball mecca, as it sponsored teams playing virtually every week night. Those teams usually ended up at Chicago Joe's bar after their games. Photo at right is the new development that will replace Chicago Joe's.

Chicago Joe's site a historic memorial to 15-inch softball



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

Classic 16-inch Chicago-style softball teams are holding a memory-vigil and experiencing a mourning-moment this month over the future of a now-vacant site on the northeast corner of Oakley Ave. and Irving Park Rd. in North Center.

A building permit has been issued by the City of Chicago allowing Landrosh Development to erect a 38-unit masonry apartment building at 4009 N. Oakley at a projected cost of \$7.7 million. The double-lot site is the former location of "Chicago Joe's," a memorabilia-filled restaurant and nostalgic, museum-decorated saloon.

The plan calls for eight units to be set aside as on-site affordable housing. Real estate records show that the developer purchased the property for \$1.85 million in July 2022. Residential units will occupy the upper four floors and feature balconies and outdoor terraces. The first floor is planned to include 2,800 square feet of retail/commercial space. A garage accessed off of Oakley will provide 19 parking spaces.

Hopefully, the developers will attract a Chicago-style softball saloon to fill one of the future commercial spaces, but the retail offerings likely will go to a high-end restaurant. "The planned development is a stone's throw from the upscale St. Ben's neighborhood, where homes priced at \$2.6 million to \$3.4 million are currently listed for sale," noted North-Side broker Sara Benson, president of Benson Stanley Realty.

Although it appears the site likely will have a happy future after sitting sadly vacant for more than three years, where would 16-inch Chicago-style softball be without a faithful and loyal sponsor—a neighborhood saloon like Chicago Joe's?

North Side softball players still share more than three decades of sports memories celebrating dozens of championships and a few sad defeats at Chicago Joe's.

Dozens of happy male-female social interactions occurred over beers, a glass of wine, a Hennessy cognac, or Grey Goose on the rocks, and there always was stimulating conversation. This

writer, who pitched and managed the Risk and Vintage Risk teams, sponsored by Chicago Joe's for more than 30 years, met his beautiful, brainy and wonderful Realtor wife at the bar in 1992. Our relationship has lasted 33 years, and is going strong.

"Spirits of good times still reside on the corner that once was Chicago Joe's," reminisced Dean Karouzo, who pitched for Risk. "The new apartment renters will feel happy vibes there."

Veteran Chicago softball team managers might jokingly tell you losing a good sponsor is worse than losing a wife. While that's probably not true, for decades, thousands of Chicagoland teams go courting sponsors at the corner saloon, the nearby funeral home, auto agency, realty office or the pizza parlor down the block.

Celebrating at the sponsor's saloon after a good game is part of the legend of Chicago softball. Every softball team is looking for the sports-minded businessman who would like a guaranteed increase in business. They don't mind putting up a few hundred dollars for a league entry fee and some lettered cotton T-shirts. Often, the saloon owner/sponsor played on a competitive neighborhood softball team as a youth and still has a love for the game.

Perhaps, retired 16-inch softball players should apply for a few of those affordable apartments offered at 4009 W. Oakley. They earned the right by consuming 8,000 gallons of beer on-site.

History of Chicago Joe's

In the early 1980s, I met Polish-American saloonkeeper Al Rompza while playing handball at the Irving Park YMCA. In 1988, Rompza purchased the old Grover's Oyster Bar on Oakley and Irving and renamed it Chicago Joe's. "My place was designed to appeal to the average Joe—any neighborhood guy," Rompza said.

A wily, intelligent entrepreneur, Rompza made sure to offer sponsorships to his sports teams, including my "Solidarity" team in 1979. We won a 1980 championship in the tough Kosciuszko Park league on Diversey near Pulaski.

Chicago Joe's once was such a softball mecca it sponsored teams virtually every week night. "Years ago, one of our female bartenders played 16-inch softball on five teams," recalled Brad Rompza, Al's son, who managed the saloon.

In 1985, the Solidarity team was reorganized, upgraded and renamed "Risk," after my son Er-

ik's youthful graffiti tag. Erik, a speedy outfielder who still runs in the Chicago Marathon, joined the team and we expanded our play to two or three nights a week.

Later, Herb, my youngest son, also played for Risk, and hit a lofty .600 one season at Oz Park. Risk and its successor, Vintage Risk, went on to win more than 30 championships over 32 years while sponsored by the saloon.

Chicago Joe's celebrated its 30th anniversary in business in 2018, noted owner A.J. Rompza, Al's youngest son, who still manages The Burwood Tap, a Lincoln Park saloon at Burling and Wrightwood. The Burwood Tap is a family-operated watering hole that was passed down over three generations from Rompza's grandfather.

Risk and Vintage Risk

Over 38 years, both of Rompza's sports-bars have sponsored the Risk and Vintage Risk, and the predecessor, Solidarity team.

With future Hall-of-Famer Al Placek and the great Gary Bergner in the infield, and other AA-players on the roster—including stars John Clausen, Keith Dickens and Bob Egan—Vintage Risk won six championships at Horner Park and Trebes Park in 2014, 2015 and 2016. It was rare six-peat-run not repeated by many Chicago 16-inch softball teams.

Earlier, in the late 1980s, the original Risk team—with the late Sal Ganir pitching, the legendary Jim Fuller of the Dwarfs on the roster, and Keith Dickens of the Chicago Jets in center field—also won six championships on Tuesday and Thursday night leagues in the tough Hamlin Park "A" bracket. Risk, then rated as a good "B" team, beat several AA teams on the way to championships in 1987, 1988 and 1989—yet another rare three-peat. Both Ganir and Fuller are Softball Hall-of-Fame inductees.

For decades, Risk teammates always held their victory parties washing down buckets of jumbo chicken wings and oysters on the half shell with pitchers of beer in Chicago Joe's outdoor garden.

The Burwood Tap

Back in 1979, when the Burwood Tap first started sponsoring the Solidarity team at Trebes Park, Rompza asked the manager (this writer) why his team was named after a political movement in Poland?

The answer was the roster was filled with great Polish, Czech and Ukrainian-American play-

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Your mortgage company may pay your taxes, but you still need to watch

BY MARIA PAPPAS,
Cook County Treasurer

Every year, my office mails more than 1.8 million tax bills to property owners across Cook County. If you have a mortgage, your lender may collect money from you each month and put it in an escrow account to pay your bill. But don't let convenience cause you to let your guard down -- mortgage companies make mistakes.

Just because your lender handles the payment doesn't mean you're absolved of responsibility. That's why it's important to make sure your tax obligation to Cook County is met. It's also why the Treasurer's Office sends bills directly to property owners, not mortgage companies because you'll have to pay the fees if a payment is late.

And mistakes arise every year. Without

fail, thousands of homeowners run into problems when lenders mishandle escrow accounts. Some firms pay late. Some pay on the wrong Property Index Number or PIN and some simply don't pay. If you don't notice an error, it could cost you. In seriously delinquent cases, an unpaid tax debt can cause your property to be listed in the annual state-mandated tax sale which adds costs and endangers ownership.

The good news is protecting yourself is simple. Start by safeguarding every property tax bill we send. Then take a few minutes to compare your bill with your mortgage company's latest statement. After each tax installment due date, visit cookcountytreasurer.com, click on the purple box and en-

ter your address or PIN to confirm the payment. If it hasn't posted, call your lender immediately.

Remember, the bill shows Cook County's official record. If the payment doesn't appear, it wasn't received. Don't assume your mortgage company correctly made the payment.

State law requires mortgage companies to reimburse homeowners for interest and fees when they make mistakes. So, if your taxes are paid late, or if the wrong PIN is used, your lender owes you an explanation and potentially money. But you must first catch the mistake. That's why my office emphasizes homeowner oversight. Think of your escrow account as a tool, not a reason to ignore your tax bill.



Maria Pappas

Top mayoral aide refused to cooperate in services-for-vote probe: report

BY CWBCHICAGO

The Chicago Office of Inspector General [OIG] recommended the firing of a senior aide to Mayor Brandon Johnson after finding the aide failed to cooperate with an investigation into allegations that they tried to pressure a City Council member to vote for mayoral legislation in exchange for city services. But Johnson rejected that recommendation and continues to keep senior advisor Jason Lee on the city payroll.

According to the inspector general's quarterly report released Oct. 15, the probe began after Ald. Bill Conway [34th] alleged that Lee told him city services could help remove problematic homeless encampments in the West Loop—if Conway voted in favor of key mayoral initiatives.

After the OIG's report came out last Wednesday, Conway tweeted it "seems the 5th Floor pled the 5th."

"The Mayor's Office's lack of cooperation in this investigation and rejection of @

ChicagoOIG recommendations is demoralizing and disregards the transparency and accountability Chicagoans deserve," the freshman alderman said.

Conway had been pushing to clear encampments under viaducts in his ward that he said had become hubs for crime, with police linking them to shootings and drug activity. Given Lee's linking of city services with Conway's legislative votes, the alderman filed a complaint with the inspector general.

The OIG said its investigation could not substantiate whether Lee actually conditioned public safety services on political support because Lee refused to cooperate. But the report found he violated city personnel rules and municipal code provisions requiring employees to assist in inspector general investigations.

OIG said its investigators first contacted Lee by phone in Oct. 2024 to schedule an interview. Lee said he would call back but did not and eventually told OIG he intend-

ed to have a Dept. of Law [DOL] attorney present for his OIG interview. Investigators declined to participate in an interview if city lawyers were present and instead sent written questions to Lee in February, according to OIG.

"OIG did not receive any acknowledgment to its transmission email or any response by the initial deadline," investigators wrote. "OIG followed up by voicemail and by email... and communicated that it would continue its investigation and potentially consider the subject's failure to respond as a violation of their duty to cooperate."

The OIG recommended that the Mayor's Office fire Lee and bar him from future

city employment, transmitting its report to the administration on June 30. The Mayor's Office did not review the report until late July and asked for more time to respond, according to the inspector general.

Days later, OIG said it was contacted by a private attorney representing Lee, who claimed to have tried to reach the office weeks earlier to signal cooperation, though the attorney could not produce any record of contact, the OIG report said. Investigators declined to reopen the case and reaffirmed their recommendation that Lee be dismissed.

In its formal response, signed by another

AIDE see p. 11

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Police Beat...

Daytime burglar hits five North Side homes

Chicago police are warning residents about a series of home burglaries on the North Side in which a lone intruder forced his way through rear doors or windows to steal jewelry and electronics.

The burglaries occurred in N.Center, Lincoln Square, and Ravenswood over the past two weeks, according to a community alert from CPD.

Investigators believe the same offender may be responsible for at least five incidents, all of which involved homes being entered during daytime hours while residents were away, including one in the 4600 block of N.Rockwell Street on Oct. 2, between 2:05 and 3:20 p.m.; the 4600 block of N.Campbell Ave. on Oct. 3, at about 3 p.m.; 3700 block of N. Hoyne Ave. on Oct. 8, between 8:35 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.; 3800 block of N. Seeley Ave. on Oct. 8, between 7:40 a.m. and 5 p.m., and on the 3700 block of N. Leavitt St. on Oct. 8, between 1:30 and 3:15 p.m.

According to CPD, the burglar entered through rear doors or windows, sometimes by prying them open. Once inside, he opened closets and drawers to search for valuables. Police described the suspect as a slender Black male, 25 to 35 years old.

Anyone with video footage or information about the crimes is asked to contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com, referencing case number P25-3-043.

Man gets 4 years for following 82-year-old woman into Lakeview retirement home, prosecutors drop sex charges

A man accused of following an elderly woman into her Lakeview retirement center and trying to sexually abuse her last year has received a four-year prison sentence.

Patrick Somerville, 43, pleaded guilty to residential burglary before Judge Timothy Joyce, who handed down the sentence, according to Cook County court records. In exchange, prosecutors dropped eight other felony counts, including home invasion and multiple sex offense charges.

The case stemmed from an incident on the evening of Oct. 15, 2024, in the 1500 block of W. Belmont Ave. Prosecutors said the 82-year-old victim, who has dementia, went outside for a cigarette and was returning to her apartment when Somerville slipped in behind her through a secured door.

Once inside, Somerville followed her to her unit and sat down on her couch, prosecutors said. When the woman realized he was there, she told him to leave. Prosecutors said



Patrick Somerville

Somerville walked toward the door with his pants down, kissed her shoulder, grabbed her, and tried to touch her over her clothing.

Video surveillance showed Somerville entering the woman's apartment, and audio captured her repeatedly telling him to "leave, leave," prosecutors said.

When police later arrested Somerville, he allegedly admitted to being in the building and told investigators that he and the woman "had a little fun together," prosecutors claimed.

Somerville must serve half of his four-year sentence and will receive credit for time already spent in custody since his arrest. He is expected to be released on parole on Oct. 15, 2026.

Four injured as multiple gunmen open fire on Division St. bar strip in Gold Coast



First responders tend to a victim following a mass shooting on the Division St. nightlife strip on Oct. 17.

Courtesy Citizen App

Four people were injured Oct. 17 when multiple gunmen, including at least one wielding a rifle, opened fire along the iconic Division St. nightlife corridor, according to preliminary information collected by this reporter.

Chicago police officers, including more than two dozen probationary officers, were already stationed in the area when the shooting occurred around 3:48 a.m. Officers said they saw gunmen in two vehicles unleash a torrent of gunfire down Division St. before speeding away.

Police first spotted the suspected vehicles about 15 minutes earlier, around 3:31 a.m., when a gray Acura CL and a black SUV believed to be a Jeep Grand Cherokee were seen racing south on State St. from Division. An officer said the two vehicles continued circling the neighborhood for several minutes before the shooting.

As the shooting began, officers immediately radioed "shots fired" and reported that victims were down. Police began applying tourniquets and performing other lifesaving techniques to help stabilize the victims.

A Chicago police supervisor at the scene said no officers fired their weapons during the incident, and only one officer reported pointing their gun toward anyone. The supervisor said they do not believe police were the intended targets.

Officers recovered roughly 25 shell casings near Division and Dearborn Streets — about 10 from a handgun and roughly 15 from a rifle.

All four victims were preliminarily listed in good condition: A 45-year-old man was shot in the foot and taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital by officers in a squad car; A 24-year-old man, believed to be a nightclub bouncer, drove himself to the same hospital with a gunshot wound to his forearm, and a 22-year-old woman and a 60-year-old man were taken by ambulance to Northwestern, both suffering gunshot wounds to their legs.

Investigators determined the gun-

men fled south on Dearborn after the shooting and entered the expressway via the Ontario St. feeder ramp moments later.

Friday's attack marks the second mass shooting of the year on the Near North Side.

On July 2, gunmen opened fire outside Artis Lounge at 311 W. Chicago Ave., where a rapper had hosted a record release party, in what is believed to be the deadliest mass shooting in Chicago's history. Eighteen people were shot, four of them fatally. No arrests have been made, and Crime Stoppers is offering a \$10,000 reward for information that leads to charges.

So far this year, 41 people have been shot on the Near North Side, which spans the area between the lakefront, the Chicago River, and North Ave. That's up from 27 during the same period last year, 40 in 2023, and 65 in 2022.

Teen shot outside Loop fast-food restaurant

A 14-year-old boy was shot outside a Loop fast-food restaurant Oct. 17 after 911 callers reported seeing a fight involving a group of students.

Witnesses said the group was fighting in the 100 block of S. Wells St. around 4:05 p.m. Nearly 15 minutes later, 911 callers reported shots fired and a person shot at the same location.

In a statement, police said someone "produced a firearm and fired shots in the general direction of a 14-year-old male victim standing near the sidewalk." The boy was hit in the leg and taken to Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, where his condition was stabilized.

An officer who reviewed surveillance video advised officers to be on the lookout for two suspects described as Black males wearing all black clothing who ran west on Monroe Street after the shooting.

As of Friday evening, no arrests had been made.

The boy is the seventh person shot in the Loop so far this year, compared with 12 at this time last year. By this date in 2023, 14 people had been shot in the Loop.

Those numbers are lower than the levels seen during the pandemic, when 34 people had been shot by this point in 2022, 26 in 2021, and 15 as of this date in 2020.

Before the pandemic, in 2019, only four people were shot in the Loop for the entire year.

Crime is out of control, dozens of small businesses hit in overnight break-ins

Crime is still out of control in Chicago, and police are now warning business owners citywide about a massive surge in commercial burglaries that have targeted at least 35 shops and restaurants from the South Loop to Norwood Park over the past two months. CPD has identified four separate but possibly overlapping burglary patterns across multiple police districts, spanning much of the city's N., West, and South Sides.

According to four business alerts issued in recent days, crews or lone offenders have smashed their way through glass doors and windows to steal cash, merchandise, or ATMs in dozens of incidents between late August and this week.

One of the broadest patterns involves up to eight masked offenders—believed to be between 15 and 25 years old—who have targeted at least 17 stores between Sept. 21 and Oct. 15. The suspects struck in areas including Brighton Park, Logan Square, Lake View East, Edgewater, Gage Park, Garfield Ridge, and the Loop. In each case, they broke glass entryways, entered the business, and stole merchandise or cash registers.

A separate series of burglaries hit downtown businesses in the West Loop, Printer's Row, and South Loop neighborhoods between Oct. 10 and

Oct. 14. Police said a lone suspect forced his way through front glass doors or windows to grab cash from registers. The offender is described as a Black man standing between 5 feet 9 inches and 6 feet tall, wearing either a black jacket or white sweatshirt, black jeans, and a baseball cap.

In a third pattern, CPD said five N. Side businesses were hit within a four-hour span on Oct. 15, police said. Between 3:26 and 6:58 a.m., burglars broke into storefronts in Lake View East, Lake View, Lincoln Square, Andersonville, and Roscoe Village. The offenders—one or two Black men in dark clothing, hoodies, gloves, and black masks—stole cash from registers before fleeing.

Detectives are also investigating another burglary series tied to a white SUV, which began in August and continued through early Oct. in the 14th, 16th, and 17th Districts. In those incidents, a man dressed in dark clothing and gloves smashed into businesses in Logan Square, Belmont Central, Norwood Park, N. Park, and Irving Park, taking cash from registers.

Investigators from Areas One, Three, and Five are handling the cases. CPD's alerts urge business owners to keep properties well lit, make sure surveillance systems are recording, and report suspicious activity.

Anonymous tips can be submitted to the police at CPDTIP.com.

Police released a list of all 35 commercial burglary incidents mentioned in the four CPD business alerts, but we are only including those on the North Side. They include Sept. 22, 1:42 a.m. in the 2900 block of N. Sheffield Ave.; Sept. 22, 1:56 a.m. in the 2300 block of N. California Ave.; Sept. 22, 4:05 a.m. in the 5500 block of N. Broadway; Sept. 24, 2:21 a.m. in the 2300 block of N. California Ave.; Oct. 6-7, 9:30 p.m.-7:05 a.m. in the 3400 block of W. Irving Park Rd.; Oct. 6-7, 4:15 p.m.-8:00 a.m. in the 3400 block of W. Irving Park Rd.; Oct. 7, 2:04 a.m. in the 3300 block of West Bryn Mawr Ave.; Oct. 7, 2:53 a.m. in the 4000 block of N. Western Ave.; Oct. 15, 3:26 a.m. in the 3700 block of N. Broadway; Oct. 15, 3:47 a.m. in the 0-100 block of East 9th St.; Oct. 15, 6:15 a.m. in the 3400 block of N. Southport Ave.; Oct. 15, 6:41 a.m. in the 1900 block of W. Foster Ave.; Oct. 15, 6:43 a.m. in the 5200 block of N. Clark St., and on Oct. 15, 6:58 a.m. in the 1900 block of W. Addison St.

Fully automatic ghost gun found during South Loop traffic stop



Items allegedly recovered during the traffic stop.

Courtesy Cook County Sheriff's Office

A late-night traffic stop in the South Loop ended with felony charges for an 18-year-old man after Cook County Sheriff's Police officers allegedly found a loaded, fully automatic ghost gun in his car, authorities said.

Around 10 p.m. Sept. 30, deputies pulled over a Ford Fusion in the 1700 block of S. State St. for having tinted driver-side windows, according to court records. Officers soon noticed a strong odor of cannabis coming from the car and saw remnants of hand-rolled cigars inside, a sheriff's office statement said.

The driver, identified as Markise Bullocks of the 5600 block of S. Calumet Ave., was asked to step out. During a search of the vehicle, officers recovered a ghost gun—a firearm with no serial number—equipped with an extended magazine, a laser sight, and a switch that made it fully automatic, according to the sheriff's office. They said officers also found cannabis in-

side his car.

Ghost guns, often built from kits or 3D-printed parts, have increasingly appeared in Chicago's shooting investigations. Because they lack serial numbers, the weapons are nearly impossible to trace, complicating efforts to link them to other crimes or owners.

Bullocks, who does not have a Firearm Owner's Identification card or a concealed carry license, was taken into custody and charged with unlawful possession of a machine gun, a Class X felony.

Prosecutors asked Judge Ankur Srivastava to order Bullocks detained pending trial, but the judge denied the request and released him to the court's electronic monitoring program.

Mexican cartel 'bounty system' targets immigration officers in Chicago, feds claim

Federal officials say they have uncovered credible intelligence that Mexican criminal organizations are offering cash rewards to anyone who targets U.S. immigration officers, including agents stationed in Chicago. But the announcement comes as at least one federal judge publicly questioned the reliability of the Dept. of Homeland Security's [DHS] version of recent immigration enforcement incidents across the city.

According to a DHS bulletin published Oct. 14, cartel-linked networks operating out of Mexico are coordinating with domestic extremists and street gangs to monitor, harass, and attack federal immigration personnel. The department said gang members in neighborhoods such as Pilsen and Little Village have acted as rooftop "spotters" equipped with radios and firearms to track Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] and Customs and Border Protection [CBP] vehicles during "Operation Midway Blitz."

The document alleges that Mexican cartels have circulated a tiered bounty system offering \$2,000 for information on federal agents or their families, \$5,000 to \$10,000 for assaults or kidnappings, and as much as \$50,000 for assassinations of senior officials. DHS officials said the initiative represents an organized attempt to "terrorize" federal law enforcement officers.

"These criminal networks are not just resisting the rule of law, they are waging an organized campaign of terror against the brave men and women who protect our borders and communities," Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said. "Our agents are facing ambushes, drone surveillance, and death threats, all because they dare to enforce the laws passed by Congress. We will not back down from these threats, and every criminal, terrorist, and illegal alien will face American justice."

DHS also accused so-called "Antifa-aligned" groups in Chicago and Portland of aiding cartel affiliates by staging protests, obstructing deportation operations, and "doxxing" federal agents. The department urged the public to report any suspicious rooftop surveillance or organized efforts to block federal operations to the ICE tip line at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE.

Two weeks ago, federal prosecutors charged a Chicago man, whom they identified as a high-ranking Latin King gang member, with putting a \$10,000 bounty on the head of Gregory Bovinio, the commander in charge of the local immigration

POLICE BEAT see p. 10

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Surveillance images of seven women and a man being sought for a robbery at the Jackson Blue Line.

'Mean girls' mob attacked, robbed CTA passengers in the Loop

BY CWBCHICAGO

Chicago police are looking for a group of seven women and a man accused of attacking and robbing CTA passengers on a Blue Line platform in the Loop last month.

Investigators released surveillance photos showing the sus-

pects, who allegedly targeted a group of riders on the Jackson Blue Line platform around 1:49 a.m. Sept. 5.

According to a police community alert, the crew "engaged in a physical altercation" before taking the victims' property and fleeing. The women are believed

to be between 18 and 20 years old, while the man is estimated to be between 20 and 25.

Anyone with information can contact Public Transportation detectives at 312-745-4447 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com, referencing case number JJ-402569.

Plaintiffs forfeit in face scan class actions vs Cubs

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

The Chicago Cubs appear to have quickly beaten class action lawsuits lobbed against them under Illinois' biometrics privacy law, which had accused them and certain security contractors of improperly scanning the faces of people visiting Wrigley Field.

On Oct. 8, attorneys representing plaintiffs in Chicago federal court filed a notice indicating they were withdrawing their legal claims against the Cubs and co-defendants Blue Star Security, of Rosemont, and Security Services Holdings, which does business as Protos Security.

Named plaintiffs in that action included Gabriel Berta and Jill Lichte.

That was followed a week later, on Oct. 15, by a notice filed in Cook County Circuit Court dismissing similar state court claims against the Cubs and their co-defendants.

That case had been filed on behalf of named plaintiff Jason Spiese.

None of the filings included an explanation as to why the cases were suddenly withdrawn, just weeks after they were filed and garnered massive publicity.

However, in other instances in which other claims under the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act [BIPA] have been abruptly withdrawn, other defendants have explained that they promptly provided plaintiffs with overwhelming proof that the violations alleged in the lawsuits did not occur.

The Cubs have stated from the beginning that the lawsuits were baseless and that the team intended to fight the lawsuits in court.

All of the cases against the Cubs organization sought to collect potentially millions of dollars on behalf of potentially hundreds of thousands of people who have attended games at Wrigley Field in the past few years.

In the lawsuits, the plaintiffs asserted the Cubs had started using facial recognition technology in 2021. They said the team now uses Protos' proprietary facial scanning software on Wrigley Field patrons but don't comply with BIPA's requirements to obtain informed written consent to collect such images, nor does the team provide its policies on data retention and destruction.

The plaintiffs said Blue Star employs more than 850 active and retired police officers. Southfield Capital, a Connecticut private equity firm, owns Protos and ac-

quired Blue Star in Sept. 2022. The lawsuits claim the "advanced digital security procedures" allow the Cubs and their contractors to enhance security for visitors to Wrigley Field without hiring additional security workers, and help the team reduce shoplifting at stadium stores.

Under the BIPA law, plaintiffs are allowed to demand damages of \$1,000 or \$5,000 per alleged violation. Under Illinois law, a violation is defined as the first time a person's biometrics are scanned, allegedly without authorization.

The lawsuits did not estimate out how many people could have been included in the class action. However, damage claims could have quickly mounted into the hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars, when multiplying BIPA's allowed per violation damages across hundreds of thousands of spectators among millions of tickets sold by the Cubs at Wrigley Field every year.

Community conversations with cops

Each year in the fall, the Chicago Police Dept. hosts conversations with citizens throughout the city. They are an opportunity for Chicagoans to participate in the creation of their CPD's strategic plan for the following calendar year.

The feedback provided by participants at these conversations is used to develop community-driven crime reduction strategies, as well as community engagement priorities, and is an integral part of the CPD's implementation of the various reforms outlined in the federal consent decree.

On the North Side these con-

versations will be held:

18th District: 6 p.m. Nov. 5, Park Community Church, 1001 N. Crosby St.

19th District: 6 p.m. Nov. 6, Clarendon Park Community Center, 4501 N. Clarendon Ave.

20th District: 6 p.m. Nov. 21, Philadelphia Church, 5437 N. Clark St.

24th District: 6 p.m. Nov. 18, Chicago Math and Science Academy, 7212 N. Clark St.

For more information or to participate, visit <https://www.chicagopolice.org/community-conversations/>.



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DELICATE from p. 2

conciierge desk at the Whitehall. A student of literature, philanthropy and psychology. As a child she fled the horrors caused by the Third Reich in her birthplace near the Charles Bridge in Prague, and found a new home in the excess of America where her roots went deep. Most of all she was a woman of charm and beauty. I will miss lunches with her and **Lucia Adams** at Ralph Lauren Bar & Grill. God's peace fill you now, my dear.

PURRR: Chicago's dazzling new Kit Kat Club is now open in Boystown, steps from their original location. Expanding their streak of star-studded live entertainment and pure spectacle. With Chef **Chelsea Poe's** inventive menu, dazzling live performances, and a sleek, cinematic ambiance. Kit Kat remains a playground for adults who love great food, music, and theater.

ROYALTY: A Royal Affair is an elegant night all about books, banter and a little cosplay. This Friday night, Oct. 24, at Alhambra Palace Restaurant, 1240 W. Randolph. Attire is African Royalty, English Regency or you can wear all black. Attending is #1 New York Times and best-selling author **Sylvia Day** along with USA TODAY bestselling author **Naleighna Kai**, and a panel of authors including **Stephanie M. Freeman, Pat G'Orge-Walker, La Ammitai, and J. L. Woodson** on the main stage at the Ultimate Women's Expo.

STUDENT CONCLAVE: Young students and parents from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Academy on Belmont Ave., were at the Vatican recently as guests of Pope Leo XIV. **Cardinal Blase Cupich** visited the student conclave before he left for the real one. In Rome it was all he could talk about. He even told the new Pope who issued the invitation. Needless to say students and their parents all traveled to Rome and had special Papal audience recently.

WHO'S WHERE: **Victoria Dal Santo** and **John Dombrowski** with **Colleen** and **Kevin Ryan, Luke** and **Monica Somerville**, at Le Vieux Logis biking in Bordeaux and Dordogne, France after some people watching in Paris...**Mark Olley** with birthday girl and dance maven **Maria Giordano** at the Peninsula for a special lunch... **Jane Justic** visiting daughter **Jill** and family in NYC, lapping up Broad-



Lydia de Chanov



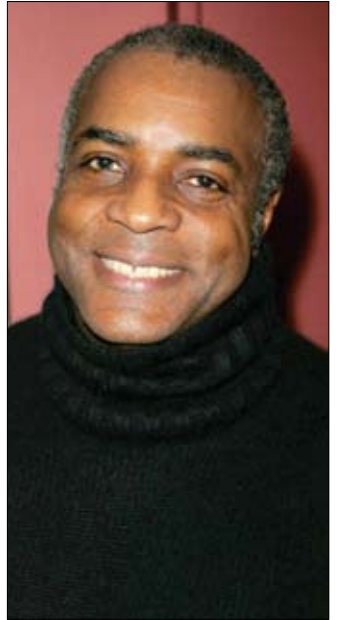
Nena Ivon



Chaz Ebert with Joey Majumdar.



Pope Leo XIV greets fifth grader Augie Wilk from Our Lady of Mount Carmel, with Cardinal Blase Cupich in St. Peter's Square. Photo courtesy Lola Gomez/Chicago Catholic



Jeffrey Banks

way shows... **Songbird, Irene Michaels**, joined the 2025 Columbus Day Parade - a new face in a storied tradition... **Sherrill Bodine's** special birthday this year gathered family to celebrate the grandeur of this unique Chicagoan... American businesswoman and film critic **Roger Ebert's** widow, **Chaz Ebert**, joined Producer **Joey Majumdar** at a recent film festival... **Ina Garten** has concluded her shows on Food Network after airing Season 7 of "Be My Guest With Ina Garten"... Former Tribune V.P., **Dennis Grant** and **Mary Kay** of Lake Forest dining with relatives in Ireland with plenty of room for fine vittles... Sympathies to dear **Paula Fogerty**, stalwart of the Irish Georgian Society and great friend of the late **Desmond Guinness**, upon the death of her mother, **Henrietta Fogarty**, in South Carolina... "Top Chef" winner **Joe Flamm** is opening an Italian all day cafe in Fulton Market... **Lucien Lagrange** and his "cowboy friends for life" celebrate the architect's recent birthday... model **Oliver Adrian Svejstrup Brynnum** enjoying the architecture and sunsets in China... My buddy **Sammy Leslie** had the NYPD Pipe Band show up at her dinner for "Protect

the Children" at Castle Leslie... **Fr. Bill Corcoran** on sabbatical in Portugal- "we dipped our feet in the Atlantic Ocean," after another great day in Cascais... Chicago Cut Steakhouse's **David Flom** at the DePaul Prep football game, still the best dad in the stands... Belated 84th birthday wishes to the **Rev. Jesse Jackson** on the glory of more year... Tortoise Club's **Megan Addington** on the move in Czech Republic... **Glenn Eden** dining with **Desiree Glapion Rogers** at Etc... **Marta Farion** getting up close and personal in Ukraine with the horrors of war... **Darian Montgomery** and **Tony Rome** at Wrigley for the chilled end of post-season ball with **LaTanya McCracken, Felice Patterson** and **Megan Christina... Hershey Felder** in Venice, a peaceful and happy moment in La Serenissima, in a mad, mad world... Much talk about Kasama, Chicago's James Beard Award restaurant, is now at Wynn Las Vegas, the original is at the corner of Winchester and Damen... Urban Belly's Chef **Bill Kim** and wife, **Yvonne**, former RL major duomo, grateful for another year around the sun... **Karen Conti** at LaSca-rola with **Armando... Giovanni Scalzo**,

seasoned bossman at Via Carducci on Division St., taking a break in Capri and picking up some new recipes... **John** and **Myra Reilly** celebrating **Nena Ivon** on her birthday, an amazing birthday soir e.

OUI: Under the glow of the Eiffel Tower **Lauren Lein Cavanaugh** has returned from adulation in Paris for her showing during "Fashion Week" where the Frenchies appeared delighted with her designs. **Matt Arnoux** and **Bobbi Panter** made it to Paris for fashion week, a fabulous stay at the grand Bristol Hotel and all that couture at a private showing and the after party at Givenchy.

WOOL: Monahan's Cashmere, Dublin's finest woolens, held a memorial for long-time founder **John Monahan** replete with stunning portrait of the founder of the late **Rosie O'Neill's** favorite shop in Ireland.

MANJIA MANJAI: Chicago's **Bruno Abate** in Rome, says one of the best restaurants in Rome is Ristorante Lagana, ask for **Mimmo** and tell him, "my friend Bruno says 'bring free limoncello, all you can drink.'"

FASHION: **Paula Borg** is so proud of her friend, **Jeffrey Banks**, displayed in the Met's current fashion exhibit. Mark your calendars for Monday, Nov. 10 to meet Jeffrey and learn about his new book.

MADE IN SICILY: **Franko LaMara** notes Chicago and Sicily share more than heritage— they share heart, culture, and ambition. Recently he co-hosted the Palermo Mayoral and Cultural Delegation for a series of meaningful conversations about international cultural exchange. This included Vice Mayor of Palermo **Giampiero Cannella**, Teatro Massimo Palermo's **Nicola De Grigoli**, Sicilian Pop Sensation **Lidia Schillaci**, and government's representative **Paolo Cecchetti**.

A garden requires patience, labor and attention. Plants do not merely grow to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone extended effort on them.

- Liberty Hyde Bailey

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Le Piano owner Willetts dead after alleged stroke

BY THOMAS O’GORMAN

The news Sunday morning was sad and tragic. Chad Willetts, a 35-year career musician and club owner, died last weekend while driving home from a dinner out with friends in Michigan.

Willetts allegedly suffered from a stroke which resulted in extensive brain damage, marking the finale on this talented man. He was pronounced dead early Sunday.

Willetts was a true Chicagoan shaped by a musical career. You might have known him from his time at the keyboard for years at his first gig, Gordon Sinclair’s famed eatery Gordon’s. Willetts also performed at the Drake Hotel, The Ritz Carlton Hotel, and Knickerbocker Hotel.

The Chad Willetts Quartet, with Willetts on drums, performed classic Jazz all around town. And he often helped the careers of other talented songsters, divas, Jazz and Blues artists.

Most recently Willetts was operating LePiano, a high-end Rogers Park music venue and eatery, which opened 2018. That was his artistic home. A dream come true that he created, with business partner Joe Quinlan, as a dynamic bohemian venue meant to recapture the tastes and flavors of Chicago’s iconic Jazz history.

According to writer Felicia



Le Piano owner Chad Willetts at the grand piano.

Dechter, who interviewed Willetts in 2023, he said the Rogers Park neighborhood wasn’t a place that he originally considered when he first opened Le Piano. He looked downtown but was “well-advised,” by the “infamous restaurateur” Sinclair and veteran restaurateur Giovanni Garelli “that I would lose my ass in something I couldn’t afford downtown.” Finding the Le Piano space -- formerly the home of the No Exit Café at 6970 N. Glenwood Ave. -- was a stroke of luck. Willetts heard about its availability at a cocktail party in Evanston when someone said they had a group of friends that were thinking of buying it but had no concept.

“I got a concept, what’s the address?” Willetts told Dechter. “I

Googled it and bought it.”

“Willetts hosted world-class musicians who brought down the house. And he paired with one of them, singer-songwriter Liv Warfield (who toured with Prince until his death) to bring the LenaBlu Foundation Series to Le Piano,” said Dechter. LenaBlu was created by Warfield to support the arts and underserved artists, and through the series, Le Piano has presented about a half-dozen up-and-coming new artists so far.

“We’re bringing a whole new level of artistry into Le Piano. What I’ve learned through all the mistakes I’ve made, is the best I can do is lead by example and hope that inspires extraordinary things and indeed it has,” Willetts told Dechter.

Inspired by the Latin Quarter of Paris, “LePiano was a place where guests have a chance to indulge in the art of listening while having a cocktail, glass of champagne,” said writer Alan Breslott. “It is a music lovers get-away with musicians from all parts of the world stopping by to play, each night is special and I believe you could come here six nights a week and never get bored.”

Willetts’ ability to bring musicians, performers and their fans together was a gift, filled with the tempo and rhythms of America’s celebrated Jazz/Blues refinement. He understood what put Chicago on the map musically, and he was determined to present it. Friends, fans and supporters hope that the spirit of Willetts’ musical legacy in Chicago will continue to sparkle through the generations of those who embrace its unique treasure.

Fridays and Saturdays were his time to shine with a solo cocktail piano hour. Friends and strangers alike enjoyed the casual urban nightlife with the coolest of sounds in the jewel box of a venue.

On Sunday, Willetts’ business partners announced that Le Piano has no intention of ever closing.

“When you walked into Le Piano, you weren’t just walking into a club, you were walking into Chad’s dream,” said longtime friend, singer, writer, producer and booking agent Barb Bailey.

Services had not yet been announced by this newspaper’s deadline.

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Chicago’s 16-Inch Softball Hall of Fame honors class of 2025

Annual Induction dinner Oct. 29

BY DEBAT MEDIA NEWS SERVICE

The Chicago 16-Inch Softball Hall of Fame will recognize the Class of 2025 Inductees and Honorees at its 29th annual dinner on Oct. 25.

The HOF includes more than 700 of the best male and female athletes in the sport since the 1920s, when softball began to take off in Chicago parks and gravel school yards. This year’s event, held at Drury Lane in Oak Brook Terrace, will be attended by more than 500 softball players, sponsors, enthusiasts and lovers of the game. More than 10,000 people have attended the event since 1996.

“The Hall of Fame is the most prestigious honor among the 16-inch softball community,” said Paul Rowan president of the HOF. “We are excited to honor and highlight those who have performed or supported the game at the highest levels.”

“The greatest game on dirt continues to grow,” noted Al Maag, co-founder of the HOF, and author of “The Greatest Game on Dirt,” a 132-page history of Chicago’s game. “More individuals and teams are seeing its beauty. The game is simple—a ball and a bat are all that is required to have fun or be as competitive as you wish.”

This year’s HOF event will induct 20 individuals, six historic teams, and two historic parks, one dubbed the “Field of Dreams.” Dinner tickets are \$150 for adults, \$95 for kids, and \$170

at the door.

The evening includes four hours of open bar starting at 5:30 p.m., a four-course dinner at 7 p.m. Award presentations start at 8 p.m. and run to 10 p.m. For more information, and tickets visit: <https://16inchsoftballhof.com/events/annual-dinner/>.

The inductees

Chicago Jets, a talented and much-feared North-Side saloon team only played for a decade between 1976 and 1985, but its accomplishments were many, and its roster was filled with bright stars.

The Jets won 22 Chicago Park League championships, a half-dozen major tournaments, and hundreds of big games, including the 1985 USSSA State Tournament—all in a single decade.

The Jets softball team was organized and launched in 1976 as a “B”-League North Side neighborhood saloon squad. Managed/Coached by player-1st baseman John Clausen, the young Jets team excelled in the tough Clarendon Park “B”-League, which utilized the famed “juiced Clincher” ball, injected with water, milk or syrup, to restrict the flight of the ball.

Over the next decade, the Jets won four “B”-League championships between 1976 and 1979, along with championships at Chase Park, Horner Park, Mather Park, Revere Park and Athletic Field Park.

By the 1980s, the Jets ascended to the “A”-bracket at Clarendon, Portage, and Hamlin parks, as well as adding to their powerful core some youthful players. Before the elite Mount Prospect “AA” leagues were launched,

Clarendon Park and Portage Park were considered the top leagues in the city in the 1980s. The Jets won three more Clarendon championships, and eight more championships at Portage and Hamlin parks in the 1980s.

“The Jets consistently beat all of the top North Side “A” teams, including Fusion, Rollers, Stones, Six-Pack, Playboys, Impalas, Lickers, and The Alley,” recalled Clausen.

During the 1985 season, the Jets won 1st place in the USSSA State 16-inch Glove Tournament in Orland Park, beating the Coors Bombers for the championship. Jet’s center fielder Keith Dickens batted .600 in the 1985 tournament and won Most Valuable Player honors.

The Jets were sponsored by D’Agostino’s Pizza on Southport and Addison and Third Base Inn, a Lincoln Ave, bar known as: “The Last Stop Before Home.”

Presidential Service Award: A left fielder from 1963 to 1968, Hall-of-Fame Frank Lentine enjoyed a softball career spanning 27 years, starring for such historic teams as the world-champion Bobcats, Jokers, Rogues, and Cherry Lounge.

However, this prestigious service award is given to him in recognition of his outstanding support and dedication to the Hall of Fame. Lentine’s unwavering commitment, tireless efforts, and generous spirit have played a vital role in preserving and celebrating the legacy of excellence within the softball community.

Manager of the year: John “JD” Doss is currently the coach of

HONORS see p. 11

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Just in time for the holidays, Ohio and Ontario feeder ramp lane closures

Chicago commuters just can't get a break. Last week, the Illinois Dept. of Transportation [IDOT] closed the westbound Ontario Street ramp onto the I-90/94 Kennedy Expy. as part of the ongoing rehabilitation project.

IDOT says that repairs to the bridges carrying Ohio and Ontario streets over the North Branch of the Chicago River, Union Pacific Railroad and Kingsbury St. will begin, weather permitting, Sunday, Nov. 17.

The \$15.4 million project,

which consists of replacing expansion joints, structural steel and deck repairs along with the installation of a new deck overlay and resurfacing.

To complete the work, Ohio St. and Ontario St. are reduced from three to two lanes between the Kennedy and Orleans St. The project began in Nov. 2024 and is anticipated to be completed sometime next summer. It was originally estimated to be finished by the end of this year, but additional time is needed to complete the work.

JOE'S from p. 4

ers with names like Glen Placek, Mike Skowronski, Paul Sortal, Steve Wysocki, Tony Dudek, Joe Oleksy and Bob Gorzynski.

In the early-1980s, Rompza opened the Ultimate Sports Bar, a saloon on the corner of Armitage and Sedgwick in Old Town that showcased a real boxing ring. Rompza's partner, saloonkeeper Jimmy Rittenberg, owned Juke Box Saturday Night on the nearby Lincoln Ave. saloon strip.

With Solidarity playing at Oz Park a block away, it made sense to hold the post-game festivities—including Jitter Bug and Twist contests—at Juke Box Saturday Night, while platters were spun in the interior of a chopped 1957 Chevy convertible.

Besides our softball team's perennial winning record, the



Solidarity softball team 1980-1984.

best 1950s platter spun by the disk jockey was "At the Hop," by Danny and the Juniors.

For more softball and housing news, visit www.dondebat.biz. DeBat, inducted into the softball

Hall of Fame in 1999, is writing "Chicago's Game," a book on 16-inch softball. He is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit www.escapingcondojail.com.

POLICE BEAT from p. 6

enforcement surge.

Federal credibility questioned

Even as DHS issued its warning, several recent court rulings and incidents have cast doubt on the department's credibility in describing its immigration enforcement activities.

Last week, U.S. District Judge April Perry said the Dept. of Justice's legal arguments in favor of deploying the National Guard in Chicago appeared to be part of "a growing body of evidence that DHS' version of events are unreliable." Perry said the administration's descriptions of immigration protests "cannot be aligned" with the accounts of local and state law enforcement submitted in court filings.

Justice Dept. attorney Eric Hamilton, who argued in favor of the deployment, cited recent arrests of protesters and incidents involving federal agents to justify the need for Guard deployment. But several of those examples have since unraveled.

For instance, Hamilton pointed to the arrests of a couple accused of assaulting officers during a protest. Both individuals were licensed concealed-carry holders. A federal grand jury later declined to indict them.

Separately, controversy erupted four weekends ago after a CBP agent shot a woman in Brighton Park during an altercation with drivers who agents said were "following and boxing in" federal vehicles. DHS characterized the incident as a coordinated attempt to disrupt enforcement operations. But according to the woman's

attorney, body-camera footage contradicts that account and captures an agent shouting "do something bitch" before an agent shot the woman. Both the woman and another driver were arrested, charged, and later ordered released by a judge.

Perry cited that discrepancy along with dropped charges against several protesters, a temporary restraining order against ICE limiting arrests of journalists and peaceful demonstrators, and a separate ruling that ICE violated a consent decree banning warrantless arrests as examples of inconsistencies in the government's narrative.

"So to summarize, in four separate unrelated legal decisions from four different neutral parties, they all cast doubt on DHS's version of events," Perry said from the bench.

Perry also noted that the Trump administration had activated National Guard units the same weekend a senior immigration official in Broadview described as a "great weekend" in an internal email, citing successful cooperation with Illinois State Police, Broadview Police, and the Cook County Sheriff's Office to secure federal property with fencing and joint command structures.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

SUMMONS (Family Law)

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: Monday Ekenomaghele
Petitioner: Pat Iziegbe Ekenomaghele

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF Stanislaus
Main Courthouse
800 11th Street, Modesto, CA 95354

Case No. FL-24-002947

You have 30 calendar days after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter, phone call, or court appearance will not protect you. If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services website (www.lawhelpca.org), or by contacting your local county bar association.

These restraining orders are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. They are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.

If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.

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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale	Real Estate For Sale
<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION LAKE MICHIGAN CREDIT UNION Plaintiff, -v- ADAM B. WRIGHT, NATALIE M. GIL, 1531 OAKDALE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2025 CH 01791 1531 W OAKDALE AVE UNIT 1 CHICAGO, IL 60657 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 20, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on November 21, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1531 W OAKDALE AVE UNIT 1, CHICAGO, IL 60657 Property Index No. 14-29-120-046-1001 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$305,746.94. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.</p>	<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA Plaintiff's Attorneys, 180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (312) 782-9676. Please refer to file number 24-001239-1. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA 180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400 CHICAGO IL, 60601 312-782-9676 Fax #: 312-782-4201 E-Mail: ChicagoREDG@welتمان.com Attorney File No. 24-001239-1 Attorney Code. 31495 Case Number: 2025 CH 01791 TJSJC#: 45-2215 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2025 CH 01791</p>	<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>8277-958986 222222</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Plaintiff, -v- MARIA E. SANTANA, JOSE J. SANTANA, SHORELINE PARK CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2025CH02326 4970 N. MARINE DR UNIT 728 CHICAGO, IL 60640 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 22, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on November 13, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 4970 N. MARINE DR UNIT 728, CHICAGO, IL 60640 Property Index No. 14-08-412-040-1242 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$93,968.32. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.</p>	<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 30 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650, CHICAGO, IL, 60602 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 25 1263. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 30 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650 Chicago IL, 60602 312-541-9710 E-Mail: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com Attorney File No. IL 25 1263 Attorney Code. 40342 Case Number: 2025CH02326 TJSJC#: 45-2005 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect</p>
<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>151515</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION LOANDEPOT.COM, LLC, Plaintiff, -v- KATHRYN F CARROLL; 6118 SHERIDAN ROAD CONDOMINIUM HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, Defendants 2024CH09153 6118 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, UNIT 206, CHICAGO, IL 60660 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 7/30/2025, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at www.auction.com, with the bidding window opening on 11/10/2025 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on 11/12/2025 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6118 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, UNIT 206, CHICAGO, IL 60660 Property Index No. 14-05-210-023-1010 The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$91,702.39 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 6118 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, UNIT 206 into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.</p>	<p>Real Estate For Sale</p> <p>Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP (312) 346-9088 please refer to file number 24-19474IL Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60602 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 24-19474IL Case Number: 2024CH09153 NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 8277-958508 080808</p> <p>Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700</p>		

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(3F3613) Donna Ingersol,
(4C4174) Michael King, (3E3479) Nuri Medina II,
(3F3629) Tiffany McCaskill, (3D3346) Jesse Reed,
(3F3610) Nyree Roberts, and
(3D3386) Gloria Tirado, for public sale of miscellaneous items. This sale is to be held on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 2:00 pm. Cash only.

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AIDE from p. 5

senior Johnson aide who participated in the probe, the Mayor's Office rejected the inspector general's findings and defended Lee's conduct. The administration argued that the aide did not "willfully impede" the investigation and accused the inspector general of creating "unjustifiable" obstacles by refusing to conduct an interview with a city attorney present.

The Mayor's Office also cited a city law

that gives the DOL authority to represent employees in inspector general interviews, a law that did not exist until after OIG began its investigation of Lee.

The inspector general disagreed, noting that the rules in place during the incident clearly required cooperation.

"OIG was unable to gather sufficient evidence to conclude by a preponderance of the evidence whether the subject engaged in misconduct related to the original allegation," the report said.

HONORS from p. 9

Circus, a top contender in the game with a record of 450 wins and only 200 losses. In 2023, Circus won the Westchester Tournament of Champions, and the 2025 Forest Park No-Glove Nationals. As a player, Doss won the "A" National MVP award, and was selected several times as a Major All-American.

Historic Men's Teams: Dago Park, three decades of championship play in Blue Island and Mt. Greenwood; 74th Street Raiders, Chicago Police Dept. Intelligence Team, and Snappers.

Historic Women's Team: Budweiser Beer Nuts.

Players (Men): Jimmy "Junior" McCarthy led off for legendary teams, including the Rockers, Pugliese, Bucks and Flash during the 1994-2002 era. His resume includes multiple No-Glove National Titles, batting titles, and All-American honors. Other inductees are: Rich "Kaz" Kaczmar-

ski and Sharif Walker.

Players (Women): Jackie Darty-Reid of Ice Dynasty, Shirley Wilbourn of Force, and Shelley Picha.

Wall of Fame: Mark Munizzi of Bridgeport Crush and Jynx; Andrew "Chin" Page of Flamingos. Also, Randy Braden, Willie "Chip" Holmes, Steve Culp, and William "Red" Davis.

Veterans Committee: Bob Durst
Organizer: Bob Herich
Out of Town: Kirk "Cracky" Huehn, a five-time All-American selection, and Brad Van Meter of Carpet Country Rollers, an All-American MVP from Marshalltown, IA.

Richard J. Daley Award: Robbie Harris for his behind-the-scenes support of the South Side softball community.

Frank Holan Award: Tom Lentine
Field of Dreams: Armore Square Park.
Lifetime Achievement Award: Sycamore's Industrial Softball Fields.

A sense of freedom is something that, happily, comes with age and life experience.
— Diane Keaton

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR GSAMP TRUST 2005-SD1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-SD1 Plaintiff,	erty is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.	(847) 291-1717 For information call between the hours of 1pm - 3pm. Please refer to file number 25-102418. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. LOGS Legal Group LLP 2801 LAKESIDE DRIVE, SUITE 207 Bannockburn IL, 60015 847-291-1717 E-Mail: ILNotices@logs.com Attorney File No. 25-102418 Attorney Code. 42168 Case Number: 25 CH 1310 T.J.S.C#: 45-1931 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 25 CH 1310 13274648
-v- MUHAMMAD S. MOUSAVI, NASREEN S. MOUSAVI, DYCK-O'NEAL, INC., CACH, LLC, STATE OF ILLINOIS, NEW RIDGE VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Defendants 25 CH 1310 6432 N. RIDGE BOULEVARD APT 3C CHICAGO, IL 60626 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 21, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on November 19, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6432 N. RIDGE BOULEVARD APT 3C, CHICAGO, IL 60626 Property Index No. 11-31-401-098-1064 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$58,570.77. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject prop-	The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact The sales clerk, LOGS Legal Group LLP Plaintiff's Attorneys, 2801 LAKESIDE DRIVE, SUITE 207, Bannockburn, IL, 60015	151515 080808
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ENFORCEMENT from p. 1

been vocal supporters of the United Nations [UN]. Among the initiatives they have vocally supported have been its Smart Cities program.

“The United Nations Centre for Regional Development launched a Smart City Project in 2021 which aims to provide technical assistance and support to urban policy makers, planners, and city officials for building their cities and communities safer, smart, efficient, resilient, inclusive, livable and sustainable through smart city solutions,” according to a written state-

ment from a UN spokesperson.

The UN spokesperson added that during the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 90% of recorded cases were found in urban areas. Use of AI technology may help cities better manage any future problems.

“Now is our chance to recover better, by building more resilient, inclusive and sustainable cities. Innovations and technologies such as the internet of things or AI provide the possibility of upgrading urban services and achieving greater administrative efficiency,” according to the UN’s written statement.

BROADWAY from p. 1

give their eye teeth to have such strong job-creating, tax-paying, viable businesses along their own commercial corridors.

‘Yer outta here’

While the City Council approval was expected, the real performance was at the Zoning Committee meeting at City Hall on Oct. 14. In a packed City Hall gallery of both upzoning supporters and opponents, speakers selected by lottery were allowed two minutes to address the committee for a duration of 30 minutes.

The deeply-held passions were evident as Zoning Committee Vice Chair Bennett Lawson [44th] requested the sergeant-at-arms to eject around 10 people who dared to speak truth to power.

A number of speakers said that although they lived in the upzoned-designated area or within 250 feet of it, they hadn’t yet been notified of the upzoning change – the subject of three letters to the city from zoning attorney Adam Kingsley. Kingsley was retained by a resident’s group, Edgewater Residents for Responsible Development.

After listening to the remarks by sponsors Clay, Martin, and Manaa-Hoppenworth, Ald. Anthony Beale [9th] cited the

conflicting and misleading testimony of Clay and Martin, before asking about the nonconformity of local businesses. “I don’t think we should move forward on this,” Beale declared. “Businesses should know if upzoning is going to adversely affect their business.”

Ald. Pat Dowell, [3rd], asked about the differences between the zoning codes of B3-3 and B3-5. “Why can’t it all be B3-3?”

DPD planner Katharyn Hurd explained that the two-block stretch of west Broadway between Foster and Balmoral was allowed to remain B3-3 because of the shallower lot depth – which was the central argument by upzoning opponents concerning the entire west side stretch of Broadway in Edgewater.

The west side of Broadway has a lot depth of 125 feet and abuts a residential neighborhood, while the east side of Broadway has a lot depth of 250 feet and abuts the CTA Red/Purple Line tracks. The east side can easily handle greater depth and density than the west side.

This crucial distinction mattered little to Manaa-Hoppenworth, who has lost a great deal of support in her ward over this plan.

Ald. Brendan Reilly, [42nd] then pointedly demanded from Manaa-Hoppenworth, “Who’s initiative was this?” She began a rambling statement before finally uttering, “We

TICKETING from p. 1

the first violation, then will receive a ticket in the mail for subsequent violations.

A similar photo-ticketing scheme enacted earlier in New York City has seen the birth of numerous covert activities to alter license plates so automated cameras cannot get legitimate, actionable photos. No doubt similar efforts will occur in Chicago, as city and state politicians have already enacted legislation denying police the right to pull cars over for license plate violations.

The city contracted with San Francisco-based artificial intelligence company Hayden AI, the largest provider of mobile automated bus lane enforcement systems in the U.S.

The company then reviews the violations and transfers the data to the city to consider issuing tickets. The CTA does not review or issue tickets.

“Every Chicagoan deserves a transportation system that is safe, reliable, and efficient,” Mayor Brandon Johnson said in a statement. “By keeping bus and bike lanes clear of illegally parked vehicles, the Smart Streets pilot helps us protect our most vulnerable road users while improving the daily commute for riders across the city.”

came up with the plan along with DPD.”

Reilly asked again, “Was this an initiative from DPD or aldermen?” Angela Clay then interjected, “This was in tandem.”

“It’s not entirely transparent,” Reilly declared, before opining “that the upzoning had a strong interest from the [Johnson] administration.”

“I’m not entirely persuaded this upzoning is going to save the CTA,” said Reilly. “That’s mismanagement and crime. This is a very broad brush you’re painting the corridor.”

Despite the presence of strong community opposition and pointed questions from three aldermen, the zoning committee voted 15-2 in favor of sending the measure to the City Council.

The City Council dutifully approved the upzoning of Broadway on Thursday.

Where did the plan originate? The city’s DPD had the project ready for public display in the Fall of 2024. In the Spring of 2025, Manaa-Hoppenworth told five local block club leaders that she had developed the upzoning plot along with DPD in the Summer of 2024 and that she was standing by the plan. Yet at a recent block club meeting where she was roundly booed she said, “It’s not my idea.”

Many of the more seasoned veterans of the council couldn’t have escaped the antagonistic arrogance of the newcomer rookie alderman. They watched the freshman Manaa-Hoppenworth at both the Chicago Plan Commission and at the Zoning Com-

No word on whether the city is actively considering requiring bicyclists to purchase license plates to operate their cycles on public roadways, and help fund the tens of millions of dollars in privileged infrastructure they’re getting.

No word on whether the city is actively considering requiring bicyclists to purchase license plates to operate their cycles on public roadways, and help fund the tens of millions of dollars in privileged infrastructure they’re getting.

Also unmentioned at the press conference was whether accommodations will be made for ride-share drivers to discharge passengers in a bus lane, or if the city is planning to install ticket-writing cameras on those vehicles too. Currently, the city’s code prohibits unauthorized vehicles from entering into a bus lane, including ride-share drivers, thereby inconveniencing paying ride-share passengers who pay a surcharge tax to enter the central business district.

mittee meeting ignore a significant segment of her constituency in order to garner supporting organizations from oftentimes distant locales who were unfamiliar with Broadway in the Edgewater community in order to placate the mayor.

They heard impassioned testimony from neighbors saying that Manaa-Hoppenworth had ignored a commonsense compromise that would have delivered 75% of the city’s wishes while satisfying local Edgewater neighbors as she refused to collaborate with residents.

Broadway area neighbors witnessed her full betrayal as she gave away any leverage the community may have had to negotiate future development deal proposals in their own front yards, now that developers will have “by-right” zoning.

By-right zoning means a development proposal is automatically approved because it fully complies with all established zoning and building codes, bypassing any discretionary review process in the community or City Hall. Projects that follow under the new upzoning have automatic approval without needing any public review, making it the fastest and easiest path for high density development.

Those locals that weren’t kicked out of the room by Ald. Lawson watched as a sad loyalist to Mayor Johnson and her wet-behind-the-ears staff squander away a promising future in Edgewater and in the City Council.

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On site inspections 2 to 4 pm October 28, November 5, 12th and by appointment.

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